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They are certainly neater than before, for the feeling seems to have arisen, "I can keep my room as neat looking as my neighbor's." A decided change has taken place in the dining room. In the spring there were two long tables, one for senior nurses and one for juniors, but these have been replaced by four smaller ones, at each of which an older nurse presides. If some are seated at a table when the one who sits at the head of their table enters the room, they arise and remain standing until she is seated. Those at each table strive to have their table make the best appearance. The table manners of all have certainly improved and there is also much less talk in the dining room about the affairs of the wards. There is still room for improvement, however, as perfection is never obtained. There is also a change in the observance of Sunday. The sewing machine is never in use now on Sunday and the laundry room is vacant all day. The rules in a nurses' home are much the same as in a boarding school or college house, lights out at ten-thirty and each girl in her room at ten o'clock. This is the most difficult rule of all to keep, because nurses have so little time to themselves that the evening goes altogether too quickly. But it seems as if the time is drawing near when everyone will try to keep this rule as carefully as the others. On the whole, the system has been very beneficial and there is hardly anyone who has not noticed a change. In a crowd of girls there are always some who do not coöperate in a plan of this kind, some who resent it if they are reminded that they are breaking a rule. But when this happens the thought is always present, "Perhaps one of us will be the house president next year."

Massachusetts.

PUPIL NURSE.

ARE WE FAIR TO THE POOR?

DEAR EDITOR: Some of us regard poverty as a disease, but is it? Are people always to blame for their failures? I have opportunity in my everyday life to see that some people have poverty thrust upon them either by sickness, accident or disease. Some people are fitted for success, because nature has been kind to them, their personal appearance, early training and good health, all combine to make their path more smooth, but it is of the apparent failures I would speak. It seems natural to some people to patronize their less fortunate sisters and brothers. Nurses, as well as other people are prone to do this, to assume a patronizing air, especially in dealing with foreigners, imagining that because they cannot master the English language, they must necessarily be ignorant. Very often they are wounding in a most vital spot those sensitive souls. What is left us if we lose our self-respect? The better educated a nurse is, the more tender is she even with the most unfortunate. I have seen doctors go into the homes of the poor and even without any previous acquaintance, address the owner of the house (if they happen to be poor) by his or her first name. Why should he? The man paid him for his services, for the poor pay their bills as promptly as the rich. I introduced a physician to a household once and I happened to address the man by his first name, because he was a relative. The doctor heard me, and immediately did the same; the man took it to imply that he was being treated as an inferior and resented it accordingly. If a "man's home is his castle" then the man is supreme in his own home, the result in this case was that they sought a physician who, while maintaining his own dignity, treated the other man with respect. We all like to be held in esteem by our associates and business acquaintances. Some might say we get what we deserve; I differ from that opinion. Dressing well is surely an asset, but some peo-

ple cannot afford to dress well and meet their obligations too, yet we should not look down on them because their clothes are of poor material. Of course I know there are people who never deserve any respect, because they never pay their bills, and are a burden on the community. They are, as a rule, the most arrogant in their manner. Those I have in mind, are the less fortunate, though self respecting citizens, who are trying to do their duty to God and country and are kept poor by unavoidable circumstances. Let us treat our fellowmen with respect, encourage them with our kindness, and make life's thorny path a little smoother.

Colorado.

M. M. D.

PROTECTION OF MOTHERHOOD

DEAR EDITOR: The very air seems full of reform nowadays. There is this reform and that, all quite right in this age of progress, but the greatest of all needs stands out boldly, so that none can fail to see the need—the protection of motherhood. Have we not failed, as alert people, to protect our choicest of women on whom the future of the nation depends? In this connection let me plead for a large, self-sacrificing body of women, the nurses. Has it ever occurred to the minds of any outside the work that nurses' hours are not limited? The state says ten hours are enough for labor for women. Is the nurse not to be considered a woman? or is one woman so different from another that this protection cannot be made general? Is the possible motherhood of one woman to be protected and not the other? Who has ever taken the trouble to note the fatalities of motherhood among former nurses? Perhaps a close study of this question might prove an eye-opener. Shall we not wake to our duty?

New York.

A. L. P.

APPRECIATIVE COMMENT

DEAR EDITOR: Many thanks for the article *Caring for the Patient's Flowers* by Cora McCabe Sargent, in the December JOURNAL. Such practical helps are appreciated by all of us nurses who have to care for the patients. It is also well for us to learn more about Florence Nightingale. Her love story is worthy of our thoughtful interest. These human stories of real life such as we often get in the JOURNAL are better than most of the best fiction printed.

Michigan.

M. S.

[Have our readers found the non-professional departments, headed *Narratives from the War and Events of the Day*, under the care of Miss Scovil and Miss Pelton, of sufficient value to justify their continuance to the exclusion of strictly professional matter? We should appreciate personal replies to this question.—THE EDITOR.]